

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE REQUESTED FILING OF RULE 1.53(B)
CONTINUATION PATENT APPLICATION BASED ON
THE FOLLOWING PENDING PRIOR PATENT APPLICATION:

In re Application of: Arnold Miller et al.
Serial No.: 09/944,840
Filing Date: 08/31/2001
Title: VASCULAR BYPASS GRAFTING INSTRUMENT AND
METHOD
Group Art Unit: 3731
Examiner: Bradford C. Pantuck
Attorney's Docket No.: AM-2B

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

At page 1, line 3, please replace the current reference to related applications with the following new reference:

-- Reference To Pending Prior Patent Applications

This is a continuation of pending prior U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/944,840, filed 08/31/2001 by Arnold Miller et al. for VASCULAR BYPASS GRAFTING INSTRUMENT AND METHOD (Attorney's Docket No. AM-2B), which in turn claims benefit of prior U.S. Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/229,675, filed 09/01/2000 by William J. Allen et al. for VASCULAR BYPASS GRAFTING SYSTEM (Attorney's Docket No. AM-2B PROV), which patent application is hereby incorporated herein by reference.--

AM-2B CON